for improvement of S&T infrastructure in academic and related institutions; (6) Establishment of national facilities and support to number of industries as collaborative research programmes under Drugs and Pharmaceuticals; (7) Development of satellites, launch vehicles and application in space research; (8) Development of missiles (Prithvi, Agni-II, etc.), tank (Arjun), pilotless target aircraft (Lakshya) etc. in the area of defence; (9) Self reliance in the areas of nuclear reactor and its entire associated fuel cycle; (10) Application of radiation technology in the areas of health care, agriculture, food preservation, industry and research, has resulted in the release of 22 improved varieties of seeds; (11) Self sufficiency in food production; (12) Identified potential molecules for the development of vaccines and diagnostic for infectious diseases; (13) Development of diagnostic kits for HIV, hepatitis, dengue, assessment of reproductive hormones, Japanese encephalitis, vaccines for leprosy, drug formulation for septic shock, plant tissue culture protocols, formulation of bio-fertilisers, high protein gene from Amaranthus and bioremediation technology for mine spoiled dumps and crude oil spillage; (14) Rice genome mapping; (15) Ginger processing; (16) Launched 21 Jai Vigyan National S&T Missions in the areas of development of new generation vaccines, bi-technology for herbal products development, coffee improvement and establishment of mirror sites for genomics etc; (17) Promote polar science and as a treaty obligation, scientific expedition to Antarctica were undertaken on an annual basis; (18) Archaeological discoveries at Cambay with artefacts dated 7000 to 8000 B.C. (19) Under the Drugs from Sea programme, identification of organisms possessing anti-diabetic, anti-diarrhoeal, anti-hyperlipidaemic, anti-anxiety, anti-cholesterol, anti-bacterial and larvicidal properties and isolation of compounds having interesting biological activity and novel chemical structure; (20) Design fabrication and air worthiness testing of 9-14 seater light transport aircraft and certification of the 2 seater trainer aircraft HANSA-3; (21) Environment friendly electric car; (22) Large number of technologies have been developed and commercialized in the fields of drugs and pharmaceuticals, food processing, leather processing products, construction materials and bio-medical devices, etc; (23) Formulation of a new Science and Technology Policy, 2003.

(d) Each scientific organization has its own system of assessment which includes Scientific Advisory Committee, High Power/Executive Committees and Governing bodies etc. for periodic assessment and monitoring of its functioning.

Developing and Marketing New Designs for Knitting and Hosiery Indsutry

762. SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry taking adequate steps to develop and market new designs for the knitting and hosiery industry at Tiruppur as well as the weavers in Arani and Kanchipuram in Tamil Nadu; and

(b) how much funds are allocated for this and how many young talents have been recruited in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANOGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government has set up 4 Computer Aided Design Centres in Tamil Nadu to develop and market new designs for the powerlooms industry. The knitting and hosiery industry in Tripur is also availing these facilities. Computer Aided Design Centre at the Weavers' Service Centre in Kanchipuram caters to the need of the weavers of Arani, Kanchipuram and other areas. Apparel Training and Design Centres have also been

set up in the state of Tamil Nadu. From these centers, 6540 students have passed out till December, 2007 and have been appropriately obsorbed by the industry. Government is also implementing various developmental schemes in the State for upgrading skills and also providing infrastructural input and marketing support for the purpose. During the year 2007-08, an amount of 33.76 crores has been released by the Government of India under various schemes like Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme.

Effect of strengthening of rupee against dollar on the textile sector

†763. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the textile sector is facing problems due to the strengthening of rupee more than 13 per cent against the dollar in the last year;

(b) if so, whether the Indian Textile Industry Federation has made certain suggestions to avoid the loss being suffered by the textile sector;

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to promote the textile industry based on these suggestions; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure that this sector being the second largest employment provider after agriculture does not face such problems in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) The Government is seized of the submissions of textiles export promotion councils and other associations, which attribute the decline in India's textiles exports to the recent appreciation of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar. The Indian textiles industry has been demanding various concessions, which include refund of State and local levies, higher rates of Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) and Duty Drawback, etc., to cope with the adverse situation. The Government has, in response, introduced certain measures to provide relief to the affected exporters. These include increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book and Duty Drawback rates, exemption from service tax on select services, reduction in interest rates of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit, and faster clearance of arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales Tax.

Steps to increase powerlooms in the country

764. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of powerlooms as on 31st December, 2007 in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether Government has taken any steps during each of the last two years for the increase of powerlooms in the country and the result achieved thereon;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for increase of powerlooms in the country during the Eleventh Plan period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the steps proposed to be taken to achieve the targets?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.